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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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1. SAC Marten Eisenhuettenwerk (IMF) Thale has been making large acid-proof tanks for the USSR since before July 1948. These are enamelled on the inside. The enamel contains chrome oxide, borax, and feldspar; tin oxide was formerly used instead of chrome oxide, but it is no longer available in East Germany. The enamel is applied in three layers. Pores are plugged with soft gold (leichen-gold), about 100 grams of gold being used each month. The steel plates forming the tanks may not contain more than 0.10 percent carbon and 0.05 percent sulphur.
2. The laboratory associated with the Container and Apparatus Construction Division at Thale takes samplings of each lot of enamel as made up for each tank. These samplings are tested at the lab with solutions of 5% hydrochloric acid and again with 5% sulphuric acid, in accordance with written instructions supplied by the Soviet plant management.
3. IMF employs about 8,000 workers. The plant is broken down into the following divisions:

Steel Works
Block-rolling Works
Rolling Mills I and II
Cold-Rolling Mill
Iron Foundry
Pressing Mill
Enamelling Plant
Container and Apparatus Construction Works

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